

## NOTICE OF REJECTION

Patent Application Number	2006-517051
Date Prepared	March 25, 2010
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Cited Article(s)	Article 29, Paragraph 2 Article 36

The present application is rejected for the following reasons. Should the applicant have any comments thereon, he/she should submit remarks within 3 months from the date of issue of this notice.

### Reasons

1. The recitations of the claims of the present application do not satisfy the requirements of Article 36, Paragraph 6, Number 2 of the Japanese Patent Law in connection with the points indicated below.
2. The inventions according to the below-cited claims of the present application could have been readily invented prior to the filing thereof by those having the average knowledge in the technical field to which the inventions belong based on inventions described in the below-indicated citations which were distributed in Japan or a foreign country or inventions that were made publicly available through electrical communication channels prior to the filing thereof, and are therefore unpatentable under Article 29, Paragraph 2 of the Japanese Patent Law.

### Comments

(see List of Citations for cited documents)

(1) Claims 1-4, 8 and 36

Reason 1

Comments

The above claims use the symbol "-" whose meaning is unclear, as a result of which the features represented by the symbol are not defined.

(2) Claims 1-4, 8 and 30

Reason 1

Comments

While claim 1 recites "an indicator member specifying which of said first positions shall be used", the meaning of "use" of a first position is unclear, as is the technical relationship with picking up an item.

Similarly, while claim 2 recites "a message with a status that said first position (3) has been used", the meaning of "use" of a first position is unclear, as is the technical relationship with picking up an item.

Similarly, the recitations "used" in claims 3, 4 and 8, and the recitation "use" in claim 30 are unclear.

(3) Claims 27, 29, 37

Reason 1

Comments

While the above claims recite "and/or", they use the symbol "/" whose meaning is unclear, and the above recitation is unclear as to whether it means both "and" and "or", or either "and" or "or" and not both, thus making the features of the above recitations unclear.

(4) Claim 29

Reason 1

Comments

While the above claim recites "a computer data signal embodied in a carrier wave", the expression "carrier wave" cannot be considered to be technical terminology that is normally used in the relevant technical field, and is therefore unclear. Appropriate terminology should be used.

(5) Claims 32 and 37

Reason 1

Comments

While the claims recite "similar" and "other similar", these recitations "similar" and "other similar" are unclear as to what is included in their technical scope.

(6) Claim 34

Reason 1

Comments

While the above claim recites a "short call-back procedure", the standard of "shortness" is unclear as to what it is shorter than.

(7) Claims 1-38

Citations 1-3

Reason 2

Comments

Methods of controlling a plurality of robots based on position information obtained by detection means regarding a plurality of works randomly conveyed on a conveyor to pick up and place the works are described in Citations 1-3 (see especially Citation 1, paragraphs 0011, 0015-0017 and 0025, and Figs. 1, 3, 7 and 8; Citation 2, column 1, line 64 to column 2, line 41,

column 4, line 13 to line 24, column 11, line 52 to column 12, line 15, and Figs. 1-3; Citation 3, paragraphs 0018-0022, and 0128-0133, and Fig. 2).

The remaining features also cannot be considered to be particularly distinguishing in the relevant technical field.

When preparing amendments, please take care not to add any new matter, underline the amended portions and indicate the support for the amendments in remarks,

#### List of Citations

1. JP-A H8-56950
2. US 5041907
3. JP-A H9-131683

#### Record of Prior Art Search

Searched Fields          IPC          B25J 1/00-21/02

Related Art                JP-A H8-336784  
                              JP-A H9-72717  
                              JP-A H9-290392  
                              JP-A H10-218104  
                              JP-A 2002-37441  
                              JP-A 2002-192486

This record of the prior art search does not constitute a reason for rejection.